

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer. A detailed listing of all claims is as follows.

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): A piezoelectric element driving circuit for driving a plurality of piezoelectric elements disposed in a plurality of head units, comprising:

a plurality of power amplifiers for driving the plurality of piezoelectric elements disposed in the plurality of head units;

a plurality of first switch devices, disposed corresponding to said plurality of power amplifiers, having a plurality of connection/disconnection switches whose input side is short-circuited;

a plurality of flexible cables connected to the connection/disconnection switches of said plurality of first switch devices; and

a plurality of second switch devices, disposed corresponding to said plurality of head units, having a plurality of connection/disconnection switches whose input side is connected to said plurality of flexible cables and whose output side is short-circuited and connected to the plurality of head units,

wherein the output side of the connection/disconnection switches of said plurality of first switch devices and the input side of the connection/disconnection switches of said plurality of second switch devices are paired and connected,

wherein the connection/disconnection of the connection/disconnection switches of said plurality of first switch devices and said plurality of second switch devices is controlled corresponding to the number of piezoelectric elements to be driven so as to decrease the time constant of said plurality of power amplifiers to a predetermined value or less.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The piezoelectric element driving circuit as set forth in claim 9,

wherein the plurality of piezoelectric elements of the plurality of head units are vibrated so as to spray large ink droplets, middle ink droplets, or small ink droplets, and

wherein when the small ink droplets are sprayed, the drive waveform signal is generated for a time constant that allows the number of piezoelectric elements that are simultaneously driven to become maximum.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The piezoelectric element driving circuit as set forth in claim 9,

wherein the head units are a yellow head unit, a magenta head unit, a cyan head unit, and a black head unit that spray yellow ink, magenta ink, cyan ink, and black ink, respectively,

wherein the head units spray large ink droplets, middle ink droplets, or small ink droplets of the individual colors corresponding to the number of piezoelectric elements of each of the head units connected to said plurality of power amplifiers and the level of the drive waveform signal, and

wherein when the small ink droplets are sprayed, the drive waveform signal is generated

for a time constant that allows the number of piezoelectric elements that are simultaneously driven to become maximum.